

The conquest of Makassar by the Dutch (1596-1800)

Introduction



p.1 Fort Rotterdam, Ujung Pandang 1995 (With star: governor's residence until 1850, so-called Speelman's House) Source> Postcard Tourist Office Ujung Pandang 1995



P.2 Governor's residence after 1850 in 1904 (Jl Jendral Sudirman, opposite hotel Victoria) Source> Bezemer, T.J.: Door Nederlandsch Oost-Indië; Groningen Holland 1906 p. 439

In the 16th and 17th centuries the southern peninsula of Sulawesi / Celebes consisted of several kingdoms. The regencies of this area still bear their names. The kingdoms were divided into a number of chiefdoms. A chiefdom had its own ruler and one of the chiefdoms was ruled by the king. The king, a man or a woman, was the first among his equals: the nobles administered their own territory and were united, more or less, around the king's throne. So the power of a king at South-Celebes was limited.

**South-East (SE)
Sulawesi 17th century,
migration of the nations
caused by war**

Suppa	Wajo
	1670
Tanette	>
Barru	^
	Soppeng
	Bone
Man-Dale	v
Marusu	v
	v
Gowa	v
Cities of:	v
*Makassar and	
*Gowa (Oud-Makassar)	
<<1667	

west-coast east-coast

< and >
emigration from
Sulawesi to
Java etc.
^ and v
migration of
Buginese inside
Sulawesi

1667 capture of
Makassar by
Dutch and
(Bone)
Buginese
1670 conquest
of Wajo by
(Buginese)
Bone and
Soppeng

© Dirk
Teeuwen



p.3 Sulawesi / Celebes
At the left a rectangular version of the map of SE Sulawesi which shows the exodus of Wajo and Makassars to the rest of Indonesia and Malaysia.

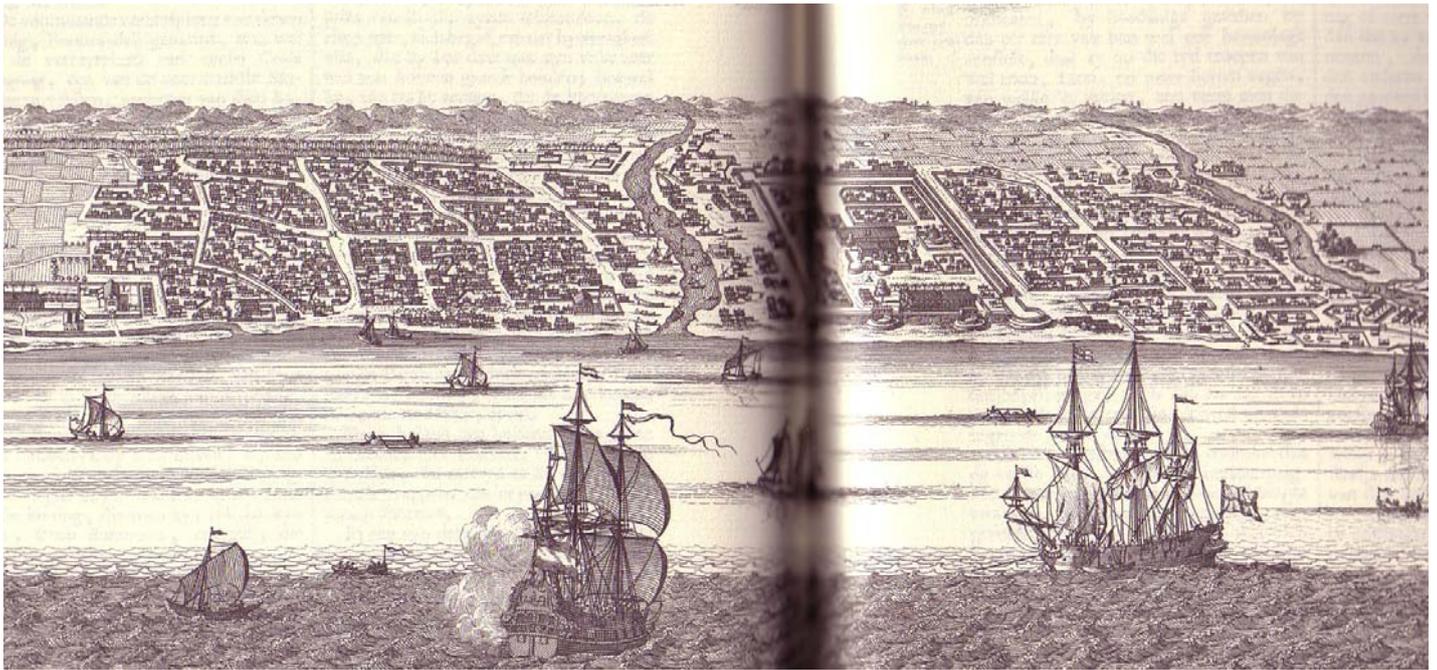
Marriage between members of the nobility was an obligation and wars between the kingdoms were normal. Islam became an official religion, mostly forcefully carried through, after the year of 1600. Before 1600 local woman walked around with their breasts uncovered. After 1600 this was not allowed any more.

The importance of South Celebes was based on trade and cultivation of rice. Especially the area around Lake Tempe in the centre of the peninsula (Soppeng) was very fertile.

The most important kingdoms were Bone and Gowa. Gowa was the most powerful one. By 1600 Gowa had control of most of the western and southern coasts.

Arrival of the Dutch

At that time Makassar, capital of the sultanate of Gowa, was an important sea-port town situated along the coast of the south-west of Sulawesi. From here Makassars and Buginese conveyed merchandise to many destinations in the archipelago.



p.4 Old Makassar in 1660

The fortified city and the palace of the sultan are located between the two rivers. The part of the city at the left, outside the rivers, is northern suburb. At the far left Fort Rotterdam was built later. Nowadays Ujung Pandang / Makassar is situated north of the fortified city (now called Old Gowa). Almost nothing from the city - as it was in 1660 - is left. The two river-mouths belong to the estuary of Jeneberang River.

Source> Valentijn, François: Beschrijving van Oost-Indiën, part II/B; Amsterdam and Dordrecht 1726 p.140-141

The conquest of Malaka by the Portuguese in 1511 caused Indonesian traders to avoid that sea-port, much to the advantage of Makassar which since that time became the centre of commercial intercourse in the whole of the East Indies.

Makassar attracted the attention of the Dutch from the beginning in 1596, because it was the staple place where the products from Spanish Manilla in the east and the sultanate of Aceh in the west were exchanged. It was to this trade that the town owed its prosperity and Gowa its power, although the products of the land were restricted to rice and slaves.

Makassar was a notorious slave-market. Slaves were collected from everywhere, but especially from the coasts of Sulawesi. Hunting for slaves was normal and meant a continuous destruction of local societies. Because there were so many tribal wars (and so many prisoners because of those wars), there was always an important supply of slaves. The Indonesian aristocracy of Sulawesi in those days were very much responsible with regard to this kind of abuses.

Slavery was abolished by the Dutch in 1860. But slavery remained a problem for the Dutch colonial authorities until around 1930, because of the inaccessible interior of some parts of their empire.

The conflict between the Dutch and the other European nations spread to North- and South-Sulawesi. The Dutch threw the Spaniards out of North-Sulawesi (Minahassa) with the help of the locals. Local chiefs resisted the introducing of the catholic faith by the Spaniards and invited the Dutch to their aid. In 1657 the Dutch were in control of North-Sulawesi and the

Moluccas. From that year the Dutch had a permanent basis in Manado / Menado, Fort Amsterdam.



p.5 Portrait of Cornelis Speelman the museum of Fort Rotterdam, Ujung Pandang / Makassar

Source> photo Dirk Teeuwen

The Dutch and Gowa

In 1609 the Dutch concluded a treaty with the sultan of Gowa, who allowed them to establish a factory in Makassar for nine years. Makassar was important for the loading of rice destined for the more distant lying Dutch stations. The factory was not permanent, because the treaty was valid for nine years only. The trading post was evacuated after some years, later reoccupied and was pulled down finally as early as 1615.

In 1618 the Dutch were not allowed to establish a new factory, while English,

Danish and Portuguese had permanent trading posts at Makassar.



p.6 Fort Rotterdam seen from the sea in 1840, reproduction of a litho by Dirk Temmink

Source: Reid, Antony: Indonesian heritage, Early modern history; Singapore 1996

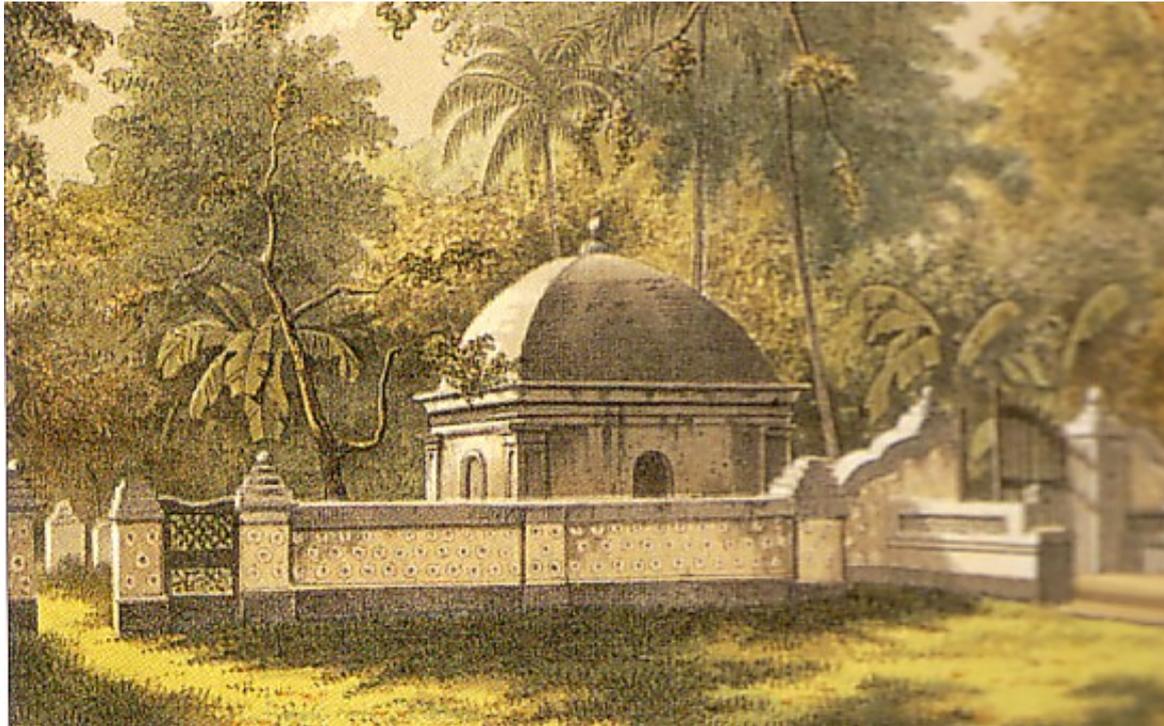
p. 59

See our Photo Gallery about Ujung Pandang and Fort Rotterdam

In 1633 the V.O.C. blockaded the harbour of Makassar, because of the required V.O.C.-monopoly, but in spite of that smuggling to the Moluccas continued. In 1636 Van Diemen succeeded in concluding a treaty. The sultan of Gowa refrained from meddling with Moluccan affairs, but reserved to himself the right to continue trading to Malaka and Ceram. Nevertheless the V.O.C. did not succeed to get a footing in Gowa and again the Ambonese insurgents were supported by Gowa. In 1640 the sultan expanded his kingdom by conquering the sultanate of Bone in the south-eastern region of Celebes in 1640, the island of Hitu in 1645, as well as a part of Ceram in 1653. Sultan Hasanudin (1653-1669) was defying openly

the V.O.C. who was bent upon extirpating the clove-trees on the various islands, except in those under her direct dominion.

Hasanudin was a secular as well as a religious leader. His wars against the V.O.C. were based on economic and religious motives. Hasanudin believed (not unjustly) that in the mind of God there was no predestination of the archipelago for European commercial interests only. The issue of a Dutch order forbidding the Makassars to sail the seas was a thing unheard of in the eyes of God and Hasanudin. That did not alter the fact that the sultan was a cruel sovereign who had no aversion to abuse power. He was very unpredictable. His Dutch opponents were no better, they wanted to realize a trade-monopoly at any cost.



p.7 Cemetery near the former palace of Arung Palakka near Makassar

Source> Perelaer, M. T. H.: *Het kamerlid van Berkenstein in Nederlands-Indië*, part III second volume; tekeningen door J. C. van Rappard, Leiden 1888 (Catalogue jhr mr P. R. Feith, Batavia 1937)

Some remains of the past, royal tombs and old mosks, can be found in Old Gowa south from Ujung Pandang (JI Cenderawasih to the south).

The conquest

Ceram was taken by the Dutch admiral De Vlamingh after fierce fighting, in which the Makassars lost 24 guns, but Gowa continued smuggling and aiding the Ambonese malcontents. A struggle to the death was at hand to bring ruin to the mighty realm of Goa.

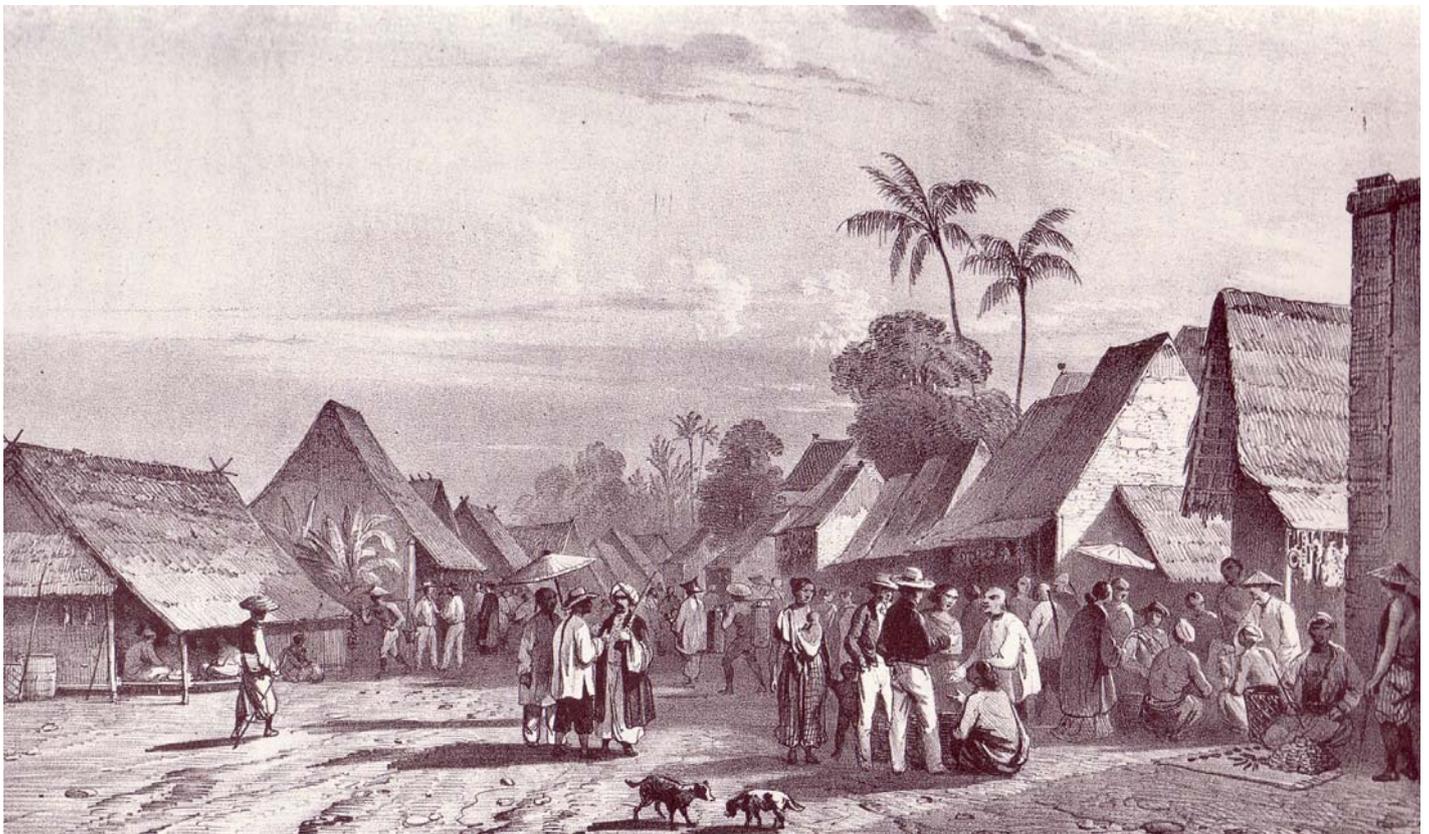
A Dutch fleet under Van Dam and Truytman appeared in 1660 on the roads of Makassar. Six Portuguese merchantmen were destroyed. The Dutchmen put a party ashore which conquered one of the fortresses. The sultan asked for an armistice and agreed to give up trade to the Moluccas, to pay a war indemnity and to oust the Portuguese traders. But Hasanudin was very tardy in executing the terms. A resumption of hostilities was inevitable.

The second expedition to Gowa was conducted by Cornelis Speelman (1628-1684), formerly governor of the coast of Coromandel and later governor-general of the Dutch East Indies and vicinity (1681-1684). Speelman was a good example of a gigantic Dutchman partial to lots of

alcohol. He was mostly in a bad temper because he suffered from furuncles from his knees up to his buttocks. Nevertheless, he was a very good soldier.

Speelman was attended by Arung Palaka. Arung Palaka was a prince and an heir to the throne of Bone and he was eagerly seizing the opportunity to revenge himself on Hasanudin, who killed his father and grandfather in an atrocious manner: both being pounded to death in a trough used to shell rice-grains by means of cudgels. Arung Palaka had already distinguished himself by joining a Dutch military expedition to the west coast of Sumatra.

Speelman and Arung Palaka first sailed to Buton, where refugees from Boni had invoked the aid of the V.O.C. The island of Buton was cleared of Makassars in January 1667 (2). Speelman took 6.000 of them as prisoners. Most of them were dropped on an infertile island, the rest, about 500, was sold as slaves. In June 1667 Speelman anchored before Makassar. Arung Palaka disembarked in Bone. From Bone he marched upon Makassar to meet Speelman. The sultan of Goa was willing to make peace again.



p.8 Street in Makassar 1842

Source> Velde, C. W. M.: in Neêrlands Indië; Amsterdam 1845 pict. 41

The monopoly of the V.O.C. was re-established in the treaty of Bungaya (a town south of Makassar) in November 1667 between the Dutch, Gowa / Makassar, Boni, Ternate, Tidore, Batjan and Buton:

- monopoly in piece-goods and Chinese ware,
- exclusion from trade of all other European nations,
- prohibition of trade to the Moluccas to the sultanate of Gowa,
- duty-free trade for the V.O.C.,
- Boni regained independence with Aru Palaka as its most important ruler,
- Gowa had to pay a war indemnity and thousand slaves,

- fortifications in Makassar had to be razed with exception of the sultan's residence and the fortress occupied by the V.O.C.

The whole region recognized the supremacy of the Dutch, but the Sulawesi petty states remained independent in many respects.



p.9 The quay of Makassar in 1904

Source> Bezemer, T. J. Door Nederlandsch Oost-Indië; Groningen Holland 1906 p. 434



p.10 Paotere Harbour (for schooners) in 1915

Nieuwenhuis, A. W.: Makassar en zijn havenwerken (Indië, geïllustreerd weekblad voor de koloniën, eerste jrg 1917 p. 788)

In 1669 Hasanudin started a war once more. Speelman defeated him and dismantled his Makassar residence. The V.O.C. rebuilt its fortress into a modern stronghold, called Fort Rotterdam. Now the Company was in power in the eastern part of the archipelago. The Portuguese remained on the eastern part of Timor only.

Arung Palakka became the ruler of Bone until his death in 1696. Like Hasanudin he was a very cruel sovereign, who brought a lot of misery to districts which had remained loyal to Gowa / Makassar, such as Wajo..



p.11 Interior of the governor's residence of Makassar 1904

Source> Bezemer, T. J. Door Nederlandsch Oost-Indië; Groningen Holland 1906 p. 438

Influence of the Dutch

Many Makassars fled Sulawesi to join fights against the Dutch in other parts of the archipelago. Some Makassars fled to Thailand / Siam, where they revolted in 1688.

In 1739 Kareng Bontolangkasa seized the throne of Gowa and he isolated the Dutch in Fort Rotterdam. The Dutch defeated him and destructed a great part of Gowa. A new rebellion took place without success in 1778: all trace of old Makassar was destroyed.

The Buginese people of Wajo were active sailors and traders. Many of the Wajo traders left Sulawesi to emigrate to Kalimantan, Malaysia and Aceh. In 1737 Wajo emigrants returned and liberated Wajo from the Bone yoke. Until 1890 Wajo was left in freedom.

The island of Ternate, north east from Sulawesi, and the states under the sovereignty of Ternate became true allies of the Dutch. After 1679 Minahassa (see above), Gorontalo and all the islands in the vicinity became true allies also.

Note

The history of South Celebes (from 1800) will be continued in a separate article.



p.12 1905 Military of the Dutch East Indian Army carrying the last king of Bone to a sedan-chair to take him into exile (to Batavia).

Source> Gedenkboek KNIL

Sources

1. See Pictures
2. Reid, Anthony: *Geschiedenis van Indonesië part II*; Abcoude Holland 1996
3. Stapel, dr F. W.: *Geschiedenis van Nederlandsch-Indië part III*; Amaterdam 1939
4. Balen, J. H. van: *Het beleg van Kappar, de oorlog met de Makassaren in 1679*; Amsterdam 1895
5. Lubis, Mochtar: *Geschiedenis van Indonesië*; Alphen aan de Rijn Holland 1979
6. Broek, Sandra van den ed.: *Geschiedenis van Indonesië*; Zutphen 1998
7. Eijkman, A. J.: *Leerboek der geschiedenis van Nederlandsch Oost-Indië*; Batavia-Weltevreden 1924